INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

pai Application No PCT/US2004/031288

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER C 7 C23C14/56 B08E B08B3/08 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C23C **B08B** IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category ° 1 - 3,9US 2002/033381 A1 (NAKABAYASHI ET AL) X 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) 4,5,8, 10,14 16 - 18, 25Α abstract paragraph '0001! - paragraph '0004! paragraph '0010! - paragraph '0033! paragraph '0050! - paragraph '0055! paragraph '0059! - paragraph '0071! paragraph '0083! claims; figures Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. X Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. citation or other special reason (as specified) O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 18/02/2005 3 February 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

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